

...the... (renowned) Mac) is...
...in good standing of that...
...tribe of experts on JFK's...
...assassination. On the eighth anniversary...
...of this wretched event, I thought it would...
...be intriguing as well as instructive to talk...
...with someone who has kept up with...
...developments in this fascinating field of...
...crime detection. Even though the...
...assassination is no longer front-page...
...news, there are apparently thousands of...
...questions left unanswered by the Warren...
...Commission. So people like Mrs. Riegler...
...pick up their private detective work...
...hoping that their research will someday...
...solve the case to be reopened.

Mrs. Riegler's sensitive post in a...
...large international organization prevents...
...her picture from accompanying this...
...interview. I vouch for her existence...
...though. She is the author of the exhaustive...
..."Subject Index to the Warren Report and...
..."Findings and Exhibits" and an...
...assassination book entitled "Accessories...
...After the Fact." She is surely not the Jim...
...Carroll or Mark Lane-type of self-...
...publicist but a serious woman devoted to a...
...rather serious subject.

It is now eight years since John...
...Kennedy's assassination and seven years...
...since the Warren Report was filed. Do you...
...regress the mystery of the JFK murder...
...will ever be unraveled to your...
...satisfaction?

The final answer becomes harder and...
...harder to obtain with every passing month...
...because of the death of witnesses, the loss...
...of recollection and the preoccupation of...
...people with other questions. These are the...
...common difficulties associated with...
...solving any old crime where the evidence...
...has become dusty and the trails covered.

Have any important pieces of evidence...
...been lost forever which could have helped...
...settle the controversy?

That's almost impossible to say...
...However, I know there is evidence in...
...existence which has been adamantly...
...concealed although its accessibility should...
...have been granted without hesitation.

For example?

The report of the FBI's spectrographic...
...examination of bullet fragments, bullet...
...cannons and the whole bullet found on...
...JFK's stretcher. The results of this report...
...are of the utmost importance in checking...
...out the Warren Commission contention

that all the shots fired on Dealey Plaza...
...came from a single rifle.

The FBI, the National Archives and the...
...government have refused to release this...
...information despite the fact that under no...
...conceivable law or statute governing the...
...classification of documents could such...
...information be legitimately withheld.

Are you implying then that the reason...
...the spectrographic tests are kept secret is

because they would clash with the Warren...
...Report's single weapon-single assassin...
...conclusion?

I'm absolutely convinced of that...
...because I can think of absolutely no other...
...reason why the test results should not have...
...been released or why, for that matter, the...
...Warren Commission took no direct...
...testimony from the FBI expert who...
...conducted the tests.

If you are correct in suggesting these...
...tests would prove that more than one...
...weapon was involved, then there are men...
...in government who know that Oswald did...
...not act alone.

Let's say there are people who should...
...know. I don't want to speculate on whether...
...they have confronted these facts and are...
...deliberately concealing material or...
...whether they just pursue a general policy...
...of not wishing to be bothered by crises. I...
...can't enter into their minds. I can only...
...judge from their actions.

Say we grant the theory that Kennedy...
...was shot at by more than one weapon...
...what advantage is there to the Warren...
...Commission and the government to insist...
...on one gun and one assassin?

The advantage is that they retain on the...
...books of history the false, fraudulent and...
...cynical conclusion that there was no...
...conspiracy; that the President was...
...tragically killed in a random unavoidable...
...crime. But this is not so.

How many people are still actively...
...engaged in researching the assassination?

In terms of professional, qualified...
...researchers, I'd say probably a dozen. Not...
...all of them are known or published. I can...
...mention a very brilliant young man in the...
...Philadelphia area who has written a most...
...impressive book in which he completely...
...destroys the autopsy findings. With...
...considerable new information he has

proved to my satisfaction at least that...
...none of the shots fired at the President and...
...the governor came from the rifle found on...
...the sixth floor of the Book Depository.

There is an architect from the Boston...
...area, a Mr. Robert Cutler, who has...
...recently published a very interesting and...
...technical monograph which postulates...
...shots coming from several different...
...locations.

What is the government's response to...
...this sort of amateur sleuthing? Officials...
...don't pay any attention to you and your...
...colleagues, do they?

I can't speak for anyone else, but my...
...book was ignored by the government and...
...none of my articles, with one exception...
...has ever caused any official comment.

What was that article all about?

In my book I had questioned testimony...
...contained in the Warren Report by a...
...depository worker, a Mr. Gibbons, who...
...claimed he forgot his cigarettes, went...
...back up to the sixth floor and saw Oswald...
...near the window. The Warren...
...Commission, of course, leaned very...
...heavily on this man's testimony which I...
...felt smacked of perjury and collusion.

Now several years later when I began...
...buying declassified Warren Commission...
...documents from the National Archives...
...and read them carefully for new...
...information, to my amazement and...
...excitement, I discovered considerable...
...new material that not only supported my

initial suspicions about Gibbons'...
...testimony, but, far from incriminating...
...Oswald by placing him on the sixth floor...
...his original story given to the FBI on the...
...very day of the assassination was that he...
...had seen Oswald at 10 minutes before noon...
...on the first floor and that he had left the...
...building at that time to spend his lunch...
...hour with a friend at a nearby parking lot.

When Mr. Gibbons was called to testify...
...before the Warren Commission the next...
...April, he then told for the very first time...
...the story of going back for the cigarettes...
...Now the lawyer who questioned him was...
...fully aware of Gibbons' earlier testimony...
...because he asked him if he ever told...
...anyone that he saw Oswald at 10 of noon on...
...the first floor. The witness said merely...
..."No sir," and the lawyer simply accepted...
...that.

In any case, I wrote an article about...
...this inconsistency in August for "The...
...Texas Observer." The editor was so upset...
...at the seriousness of the charges I was...
...making that she sent my article in...
...advance to the two commission lawyers...
...involved. One lawyer declined to...
...comment. The other insisted that what...
...Gibbons said to him in April was more...
...authoritative than anything said...
...previously to the police, FBI or secret...
...service, in private correspondence with...
...me, this second lawyer has only been...
...abusive, angry and hysterical.

...I think... I don't believe...
...believe, he must have been framed. So...
...who framed Oswald, and why?

I only wish I knew. It's our only...
...possible road back to the conspirators if...
...they can be found at all. Now, there's no...
...other link to these people except through...
...persons who knew Oswald and were in...
...position to manipulate him. For he was...
...obviously framed in advance.

People had to make sure he was alone...
...at the time of the shooting and not out...
...there in the crowd being photographed...
...They had to make sure he carried...
...something into the depository that...
...morning. Therefore I can only postulate...
...that the persons who designed and...
...executed this assassination were persons...
...who had extensive knowledge of Oswald...
...and in a degree were able to influence his...
...movements and activities.

Did Oswald know beforehand that...
...Kennedy was going to be killed that day...
...and that he somehow was implicated?

In my opinion he knew perhaps he had...
...been entrapped into something. This is...
...why he left the depository and showed...
...some hesitation about where he would go...
...Subsequently, when Oswald was under...
...arrest in the Dallas Police Department, he...
...shouted to reporters that he was a patsy...
...that he was being framed.

Did Oswald have any last words as he...
...was dying with Ruby's bullets in his...
...stomach?

This involves another deplorable...
...omission from the Warren Report. A...
...police officer said to Oswald as he lay...
...dying, "This is your last chance. Do you...
...want to tell me anything now?" Oswald...
...was aware of the question and indicated he...
...had nothing to say. This may or may not...
...mean anything because guilty men can die...
...refusing to confess. But why was this...
...exchange omitted from the report?

How do you account for the utter...
...success of JFK's assassination? If Oswald...
...and Ruby were framed, then the rest of the...
...conspirators got off scot free. It was a...
...perfect crime.

I account for it by the terrible lethargy...
...of the legal profession, the press and even...
...the public. It's very interesting that one...
...poll showed that three quarters of the...
...American people did not believe the...
...Warren Report, yet almost the same...
...percentage were opposed to a new...
...investigation.

UNCOMMON
CONVERSATIONS
INTERVIEWS BY FRANK NICOLINO
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS/NEWS
SUNDAY, NOV. 21, 1971